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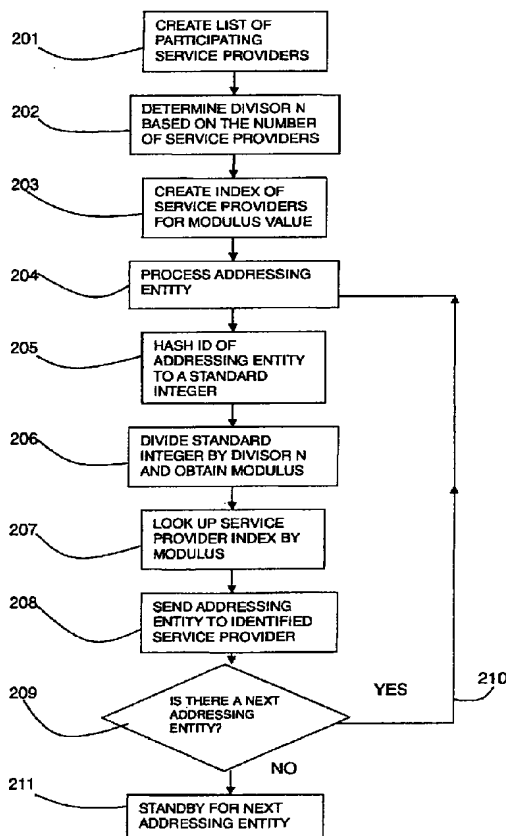
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AFFINITY MANAGEMENT



(57) Abstract: A method and system for affinity management in a distributed computer system are provided in which a plurality of addressing entities (311-315) need to be balanced across a plurality of service providers (301-315) whilst maintaining group affinities within the addressing entities. An identifier is provided for each of a plurality of addressing entities, wherein the identifier for each member of a group of addressing entities with an affinity is the same group identifier. A list is provided of service providers which are available to be addressed by an addressing entity to provide an instance of a service. The distribution of addressing entities to service providers is managed by an algorithm. The algorithm includes: applying (205) a hash function to the identifier of an addressing entity to obtain a standard integer; dividing (206) the standard integer by the number of service providers and obtaining the modulus; and selecting (207) a service provider by reference to the modulus. The addressing entity is sent to the instance (306) of the service provided by the selected service provider.

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